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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS IN RESPONSE TO GAO REPORT ON DTV TRANSITION

"It continues to astound me that we do not have a comprehensive DTV transition plan. This effort is far too important to be left to chance or patchwork decisions by individual companies. I was heavily involved in the Y2K effort. I know what a comprehensive, public sector-private sector partnership looks like. It has accountability, clear lines of authority, and daily coordination at the highest levels. Someone needs to oversee that effort. In Y2K we had an Inter-Agency Task Force, headed out of The White House. Absent that, I agree with GAO that the FCC is in the best position to get the job done. But the hour is late--very late.

Finally, although a document has been released entitled 'FCC Response to GAO's Report on the Digital Television Transition,' I did not see that document before it was released and do not necessarily endorse any of the assertions it contains."